

Bird Census at Lake Claremont

24 October 2020

Note:

The morning the bird census was undertaken was initially breezy, warm and mostly clear.

Although there was water covering most of the southern area of the lake, much of the north was dry. In nineteen years of surveying the water level has not been seen this low in October. The gauge at the jetty registered about 1 m AMHW (see photo below).

596 individuals of 39 species were recorded, somewhat above the average for our spring surveys. Breeding activity was noted for Pink-eared and Pacific Black Ducks, Purple Swamphen, Coot, Australasian Grebe, Willy Wagtail, Raven, Tree Martin and Welcome Swallow. Pink-eared Ducks were abundant but, not surprisingly, species favouring deeper water were absent. This year the successful breeding by only one pair of swans has been noted, whereas in recent years eight to ten pairs have bred at the lake.

Although we didn't see it on our survey, on 22 October 2020, when guiding a Birdlife WA group around the lake, a Terek Sandpiper was seen. This migratory species is uncommon in the metropolitan area and, as far as the surveyor ascertained, this is the first record for Lake Claremont.

The below spreadsheet also shows the average numbers recorded in previous nineteen spring surveys. The Terek Sandpiper has now been included in the spreadsheet and the Variegated Fairy-wren has been renamed as it is now called the Purple-backed Fairy-wren.



Lake Claremont Bird Census	Spring 2020	Spring average
	24/10/20	
Common Name		
Blue-billed Duck		4.4
Pink-eared Duck	64	24.0
Black Swan		13.1
Australian Shelduck	3	7.1
Hardhead		8.2
Australasian Shoveler	2	3.3
Pacific Black Duck	100	98.4
Domestic Duck (Mallard)		0.1
Grey Teal	103	32.4
Chestnut Teal		0.1
Freckled Duck		0.1
Musk Duck		0.0
Australian Wood Duck	2	3.3
Australasian Grebe	3	7.8
Hoary-headed Grebe		1.9
Rock Dove		0.1
Spotted Dove	5	2.7
Laughing Dove		2.3
Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo		0.0
Pallid Cuckoo		0.1
Southern Boobook		0.0
Tawny Frogmouth		0.0
Buff-banded Rail		0.1
Australian Spotted Crake		0.2
Baillon's Crake		0.0
Spotless Crake		0.0
Purple Swamphen	25	14.5
Dusky Moorhen	1	5.1
Black-tailed Native-hen		0.3
Eurasian Coot	57	80.4
Red-necked Avocet		0.1
Black-winged Stilt	59	28.1
Banded Stilt		0.0
Black-fronted Dotterel		0.5
Red-kneed Dotterel		0.0
Masked Lapwing		0.0
Terek Sandpiper		0.0
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		0.0
Long-toed Stint		0.0
Common Greenshank		0.0
Marsh Sandpiper		0.0
Wood Sandpiper		0.0
Silver Gull	1	21.1
Caspian Tern		0.0
Australian Pelican		0.0
Australian Little Bittern		0.0
Nankeen Night-Heron	3	1.6
White-necked Heron		0.3

Lake Claremont Bird Census	Spring 2020	Spring average
	24/10/20	
Common Name		
Great Egret		0.6
White-faced Heron		2.2
Australian White Ibis	15	4.4
Straw-necked Ibis	2	1.7
Yellow-billed Spoonbill		0.1
Glossy Ibis		0.0
Little Pied Cormorant	1	0.8
Great Cormorant		0.1
Little Black Cormorant		0.0
Pied Cormorant		0.0
Australasian Darter		0.0
Black-shouldered Kite		0.1
Whistling Kite		0.0
Swamp Harrier		0.1
Brown Goshawk	1	0.0
Collared Sparrowhawk		0.0
Nankeen Kestrel		0.0
Australian Hobby		0.2
Rainbow Bee-eater		0.1
Sacred Kingfisher		0.1
Laughing Kookaburra	2	0.8
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo		1.5
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo		0.1
Galah	4	5.3
Long-billed Corella		0.0
Little Corella	13	14.0
Australian Ringneck		3.9
Rainbow Lorikeet	8	20.7
Purple-backed Fairy-wren		0.0
Splendid Fairy-wren		0.0
Brown Honeyeater	8	7.5
New Holland Honeyeater		0.1
White-cheeked Honeyeater		0.1
Western Spinebill		0.0
White-fronted Chat		0.0
Red Wattlebird	14	23.1
Western Wattlebird		0.0
Singing Honeyeater	10	5.1
Spotted Pardalote		0.0
Striated Pardalote	1	0.8
Western Gerygone	4	0.7
Weebill		0.3
White-browed Scrubwren	2	0.0
Yellow-rumped Thornbill		0.0
Inland Thornbill		0.0
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike		0.3
Rufous Whistler	3	0.2

Lake Claremont Bird Census	Spring 2020	Spring average
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Common Name		
Australian Magpie	10	7.8
Grey Butcherbird		1.5
Willie Wagtail	13	12.3
Grey Fantail	2	0.2
Australian Raven	20	13.0
Magpie-lark	14	9.9
Little Grassbird	2	3.6
Brown Songlark		0.0
Australian Reed-Warbler	1	6.8
Tree Martin	2	5.2
Welcome Swallow	4	12.4
Silvereye	12	1.1
Species	39	34.4
Individuals	596	530.1

Recorded by David and Pam Free